अपतटीय क्षेत्रों में तथा देश के तटवर्ती इलाकों में काम पर लगाया जाता है। इन तेल कम्पनियों द्वारा तटीय और अपतटीय दोनों ही क्षेत्रों में 1989-90 में कुल 949.32 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किये गये।

तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस आयोग और आयल इंडिया लि० की अन्वेषण क्षेत्र में 1989-90 के दौरान उपलब्धियां अनुपत्र में दी गई हैं। [परिशिष्ट 155 अनुपत्र सं० 69]

विदेशी तेल कम्पनियों द्वारा बोली के तीसरे दौर में नौ अपतटीय ब्लाकों के लिए उत्पादन भागीदारी संविदाओं पर पांच कम्पनियों यथा शेवरान इंटरनेशनल लिमिटेड और टैक्साको एक्सप्लोरेशन इंडिया इंक, इंटरनेशनल पेट्रोलियम (बरमुडा) लि०, बी एच पी पेट्रोलियम (इंडिया) इंक, शैल इंडिया प्रोडक्शन डिवेलपमेंट बी०बी० और अमोको इंडिया पेट्रोलियम कम्पनी ने हस्ताक्षर किया। इन कम्पनियों द्वारा किये गये व्यय और उनकी उपलब्धियां अनुपत्र में दी गई हैं। [देखिए परिशिष्ट 155, अनुपत्र सं० 69]

राष्ट्रीय हित में मंशा यह है कि इस क्षेत्र में राष्ट्रीय तेल कम्पनियों का एकाधिकार बना रहे। तथापि, बोली के प्रस्तावित चौथे दौर में भारतीय प्राइवेट कम्पनियों द्वारा भागीदारी के स्वरूप के बारे में सरकार जांच कर रही है।

Commissioning of Retail outlets of Petrol/Diesel in Delhi

2139. SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the commissioning of retail outlets for petrol/diesel in Delhi/New Delhi for which letters of intent have been issued by various oil companies, is held up;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps are being taken to remove the bottleneck; and

(c) by when the proposed retail outlets are likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Except in one case pending in the court, the commissioning of such outlets have been held up on account of difficulty in getting suitable land. The issue has been taken up with the authorities concerned for expediting release of suitable lands for this purpose on reasonable terms and conditions.

(c) It is not possible to indicate the time by which these outlets are likely to be commissioned in view of the cricumstances stated above.

Utilisation of surplus cement in Andhra Pradesh

2140. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the Times of India (Business Section) of the 13th July, 1990 captioned "Government move to bring down cement price":

(b) whether there is a demand for freight subsidy to transport surplus cement from the South to other areas; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to utilise the surplus cement in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Cement Manufacturers' Association (CMA) and some individual cement manufacturers have been asking for freight subsidy for moving surplus cement from the Southern Cement Plants to the deficit areas. There is, however, no price and distribution control over cement and

the manufacturers are free to move surplus cement, if any, to the deficit areas on their own. Any infrastructural constraint in moving such cement is looked into by Government as and when it occurs.

New Contraceptive Vaccine

2141. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a new contraceptive vaccine has been successful in mice in USA as reported in April, 1990 issue of 'Health of Millions' if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether these results are based on similar R&D Work carried out earlier at AIIMS and now at National Institute of Immunology and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether the new US vaccine has any features which makes it more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) Yes, Sir. A vaccine has been successful in mice. There is a layer encircling the ovum termed as 'Zona pellucida' that consists of a number of proteins. The antibodies directed against Zona antigens would act by prevention of spermovum interaction and thus provide pre-fertilization and thus provide pre-fertilization block of fertility.

(b) No, Sir. The studies carried out at USA in mice are different and independent from the studies that are being carried out at National Institute of Immunology.

(c) The studies are at Laboratory stage only and need further confirmation. It is difficult to comment at this stage about the effectiveness of the vaccine.

Ban on use of Aspartame Sweetner

2142. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether aspartame sweetner widely marketed in India has been linked with Alzheimers disease as per April 1990 issue of Health for Millions; and

(b) whether Government would investigate the matter and pending final results, ban use of this sweetner in the country at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) and (b) Government has seen the report published in April 90 issue of Health for Millions alleging mentaillness and other health hazards caused as a result of consumption of Aspartame. As per information made available by Food and Drug Administration, Washigton, USA, the Centre for Disease Control has completed and evaluation of Aspartame. The data generated by the Centre do not provide evidence for existence of various vide spread adverse health consequences attendant to use of Aspartame.

OPD Services in Delhi Hospitals

2143. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the doctor-patient ratio in the various OPD departments of Government hospitals in Delhi at present;

(b) whether Government have made any study of the situation prevailing in the OPD's in various hospitals in the city; and

(c) if so, what measures have been taken to meet the shortage of doctors and to improve the OPD services?